

Assembly Bill No. 116

CHAPTER 20

An act to amend Sections 2472, 4980.01, and 4996 of, and to add Sections 1626.2 and 2904.5 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to the healing arts.

[Approved by Governor June 25, 2003. Filed with
Secretary of State June 26, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 116, Nakano. Marriage and family therapists: telemedicine.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of dentists by the Dental Board of California, podiatrists by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, psychologists by the Board of Psychology, marriage and family therapists by the Board of Behavioral Sciences, and clinical social workers by the Board of Behavioral Sciences. Under existing law, the Telemedicine Development Act of 1996, a health care practitioner may deliver medical services using interactive audio, video, or data communications without person-to-person contact with the patient.

This bill would state that the provisions of law regulating telemedicine apply to the practice of a dentist, a podiatrist, a psychologist, a marriage and family therapist, and a clinical social worker.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1626.2 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1626.2. A dentist licensed under this chapter is a licentiate for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 805, and thus is a health care practitioner subject to the provisions of Section 2290.5 pursuant to subdivision (b) of that section.

SEC. 2. Section 2472 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2472. (a) The certificate to practice podiatric medicine authorizes the holder to practice podiatric medicine.

(b) As used in this chapter, "podiatric medicine" means the diagnosis, medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative, and electrical treatment of the human foot, including the ankle and tendons that insert into the foot and the nonsurgical treatment of the muscles and tendons of the leg governing the functions of the foot.



(c) No podiatrist shall do any amputation or administer an anesthetic other than local. If an anesthetic other than local is required for any procedure, the anesthetic shall be administered by another health care practitioner licensed under this division, who is authorized to administer the required anesthetic within the scope of his or her practice.

(d) Surgical treatment of the ankle and tendons at the level of the ankle may be performed by a doctor of podiatric medicine who was certified by the board on and after January 1, 1984.

(e) Surgical treatment by a podiatrist of the ankle and tendons at the level of the ankle shall be performed only in the following locations:

(1) A licensed general acute care hospital, as defined in Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) A licensed surgical clinic, as defined in Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code, if the podiatrist has surgical privileges, including the privilege to perform surgery on the ankle, in a general acute care hospital described in subparagraph (1) and meets all the protocols of the surgical clinic.

(3) An ambulatory surgical center that is certified to participate in the Medicare program under Title XVIII (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395 et seq.) of the federal Social Security Act, if the podiatrist has surgical privileges, including the privilege to perform surgery on the ankle, in a general acute care hospital described in subparagraph (1) and meets all the protocols of the surgical center.

(4) A freestanding physical plant housing outpatient services of a licensed general acute care hospital, as defined in Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code, if the podiatrist has surgical privileges, including the privilege to perform surgery on the ankle, in a general acute care hospital described in paragraph (1). For purposes of this section, a “freestanding physical plant” means any building that is not physically attached to a building where inpatient services are provided.

(f) The amendment of this section made at the 1983–84 Regular Session of the Legislature is intended to codify existing practice.

(g) A podiatrist licensed under this chapter is a licentiate for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 805, and thus is a health care practitioner subject to the provisions of Section 2290.5 pursuant to subdivision (b) of that section.

SEC. 3. Section 2904.5 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

2904.5. A psychologist licensed under this chapter is a licentiate for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 805, and thus is a health care practitioner subject to the provisions of Section 2290.5 pursuant to subdivision (b) of that section.



SEC. 4. Section 4980.01 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4980.01. (a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to constrict, limit, or withdraw the Medical Practice Act, the Social Work Licensing Law, the Nursing Practice Act, or the Psychology Licensing Act.

(b) This chapter shall not apply to any priest, rabbi, or minister of the gospel of any religious denomination when performing counseling services as part of his or her pastoral or professional duties, or to any person who is admitted to practice law in the state, or who is licensed to practice medicine, when providing counseling services as part of his or her professional practice.

(c) This chapter shall not apply to an employee of a governmental entity or of a school, college, or university, or of an institution both nonprofit and charitable if his or her practice is performed solely under the supervision of the entity, school, or organization by which he or she is employed, and if he or she performs those functions as part of the position for which he or she is employed.

(d) A marriage and family therapist licensed under this chapter is a licentiate for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 805, and thus is a health care practitioner subject to the provisions of Section 2290.5 pursuant to subdivision (b) of that section.

(e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (b) and (c) all persons registered as interns or licensed under this chapter shall not be exempt from this chapter or the jurisdiction of the board.

SEC. 5. Section 4996 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4996. (a) Only individuals who have received a license under this article may style themselves as “Licensed Clinical Social Workers.” Every individual who styles himself or herself or who holds himself or herself out to be a licensed clinical social worker, or who uses any words or symbols indicating or tending to indicate that he or she is a licensed clinical social worker, without holding his or her license in good standing under this article, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to engage in the practice of clinical social work unless at the time of so doing such person holds a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license under this article.

(c) A clinical social worker licensed under this chapter is a licentiate for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 805, and thus is a health care practitioner subject to the provisions of Section 2290.5 pursuant to subdivision (b) of that section.

